



May 12, 2025

To the Republican Members of the House Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, and Agriculture Committees:

As we approach critical markups for reconciliation in your respective Committees, we write to urge you to do the right thing and stand with women and families. As members of the Democratic Women's Caucus, we have heard from women and families from across the country, and the message is clear – do not cut programs and services that deliver basic necessities like food and health care for women and families, including Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Medicaid. We should be investing in the future of our country by implementing policies, like expansion of the Child Tax Credit, that allows women and families to thrive—not rip away food and health care to give billionaires tax breaks. Our job in Congress is to serve our constituents and the American people; we call on you to fulfill this duty by listening to the will of the people and protect these essential programs that help women and families obtain basic necessities.

### **Don't Abandon America's Hungry**

It has been reported that the Committee on Agriculture is considering cuts to SNAP by passing along costs to states and implementing work requirements for able-bodied adults and parents with children seven or older.<sup>1</sup> This will fracture an already delicate system and cause women and families to go hungry. 62% of SNAP households serving children are headed by a single adult, of which 92% were headed by women.<sup>2</sup> **We have a simple question for you: will you stand with single moms trying to feed their kids or with billionaires?** Cuts to SNAP could steal food from the mouths of 11 million children ages 5 to 17; 4.4 million children under the age of 5; and 7.8 million seniors ages 60 and older.<sup>3</sup> With rising grocery prices, this devastation will be felt even harder. The USDA predicts grocery prices will increase 3.2% in 2025, which is above the 20-year historical average price change.<sup>4</sup> SNAP has historically served as a response to rising food prices to support families through tough times.<sup>5</sup> To rip away these benefits

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1 Goodman, J., McCarthy, M., Kashinsky, L., & Leonard, B. (2025, May 5). *Crypto chaos hits the Senate*. Politico. <https://www.politico.com/newsletters/inside-congress/2025/05/05/crypto-chaos-hits-the-senate-00326232>

2 U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service. (2024). *Characteristics of SNAP Households: Fiscal Year 2023*. <https://www.fns.usda.gov/research/snap/characteristics-fy23>

3 Ibid.

4 U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service. (2025, April 25). *Food price outlook: Summary findings*. [https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-price-outlook/summary-findings:contentReference\[oaicite:3\]{index=3}](https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-price-outlook/summary-findings:contentReference[oaicite:3]{index=3})

5 Food Research & Action Center. (2025, April 15). *As food prices rise, SNAP cuts are not the solution*. <https://frac.org/blog/as-food-prices-rise-snap-cuts-are-not-the-solution>

when people need it most is not only careless, it is cruel. We call on you to help women and families keep food on the table by protecting SNAP and other food assistance programs.

### **Women Need Access to Health Care From Pregnancy to Eldercare**

Furthermore, we are deeply alarmed by the conflicting reports about planned cuts to Medicaid in the Committee on Energy & Commerce – which would be detrimental to the lives and wellbeing of millions of women and families. As you know, Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program provide health care for about 1 in 5 Americans.<sup>6</sup> Cuts to Medicaid means depriving

17 million women access to basic reproductive health care;<sup>7</sup>

274,000 women access to breast and cervical cancer screenings;<sup>8</sup>

40% of moms giving birth in the U.S. access to medical care;<sup>9</sup>

39.4 million children access to annual check ups and emergency care;<sup>10</sup>

63% of nursing home residents access to their coverage;<sup>11</sup> and

1.6 million personal care workers access to a job.<sup>12</sup>

Ripping health care away from pregnant women and closing down rural hospitals under the guise of ‘eliminating waste, fraud, and abuse’ is nothing but a poor excuse for abandoning women, babies, and your duty as a Member of Congress. There are many ways to reduce fraud and keep women safe—we call on you to protect women and babies by voting against any and all cuts to Medicaid and other essential health programs.

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6 Vollers, A. C. (2025, April 13). *1 in 5 Americans are on Medicaid. Some enrollees have no idea*. PBS NewsHour. <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/health/1-in-5-americans-are-on-medicaid-some-enrollees-have-no-idea>

7 KFF. (2024, December 12). *Women’s health insurance coverage*. <https://www.kff.org/womens-health-policy/fact-sheet/womens-health-insurance-coverage/>

8 National Partnership for Women & Families. (2024, December). *From maternal health to long-term care: Medicaid is vital for women’s lifelong health*. <https://nationalpartnership.org/wp-content/uploads/medicaid-vital-for-womens-lifelong-health.pdf>

9 Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. (2024, May). *2024 Medicaid & CHIP beneficiaries at a glance: Maternal health*. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/benefits/downloads/2024-maternal-health-at-a-glance.pdf>

10 Georgetown University Center for Children and Families. (2023, September 27). *How many children are losing Medicaid?* <https://ccf.georgetown.edu/2023/09/27/how-many-children-are-losing-medicaid/>

11 Chidambaram, P., & Burns, A. (2024, December 6). *A look at nursing facility characteristics between 2015 and 2024*. KFF. <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/a-look-at-nursing-facility-characteristics/>

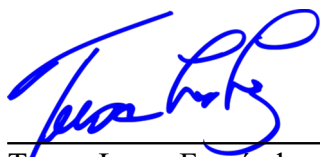
12 National Partnership for Women & Families. (2025, February 27). *Trump’s plan to slash Medicaid will harm older women – and the economy*. [https://nationalpartnership.org/report/trumps-plan-slash-medicaid-will-harm-older-women-and-economy/:contentReference\[oaicite:6\]{index=6}](https://nationalpartnership.org/report/trumps-plan-slash-medicaid-will-harm-older-women-and-economy/:contentReference[oaicite:6]{index=6})

## The Child Tax Credit is the Pro Family Tax Benefit You Should Prioritize

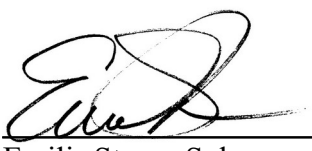
We are outraged by the proposals to slash the Child Tax Credit in half from \$2,000 to \$1,000-per-child to give tax breaks to billionaires in the Ways and Means Committee.<sup>13</sup> Every day costs are rising for women and families. For example, the annual cost of child care in the U.S. is 19.3% of median family income.<sup>14</sup> Families should not have to budget almost 20% of their annual income for child care on top of the rising costs of housing, food and goods. Slashing a tax credit that is designed to help women and families with the immense financial pressure of having kids is not “pro-family.” We call on you to consider the experiences of your constituents who are navigating increasing costs while raising a family and preserve or increase the Child Tax Credit to help women and families.

As Members of these influential Committees it is your duty to not only stand up for women and families, but to prioritize their wellbeing. During these Committee meetings we urge you to think of the women and children who will suffer because of these proposed cuts. Saying that you are rooting out fraud will not eliminate the pain your votes may bring. We urge you to stand with women and families. As members of the Democratic Women’s Caucus, we remain committed to advocating for them every step of the way.

Sincerely,



Teresa Leger Fernandez  
Chair  
Democratic Women's Caucus



Emilia Strong Sykes  
Vice Chair  
Democratic Women's Caucus



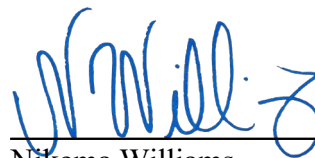
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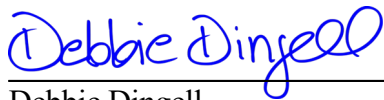
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Nikema Williams  
Chief Whip  
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<sup>13</sup> Leddy, M. (2025, April 22). *The child tax credit’s cloudy future*. Thomson Reuters.  
<https://tax.thomsonreuters.com/news/the-child-tax-credits-cloudy-future/>

<sup>14</sup> Grundy, A. (2024, January 9). *Rising cost of child care services a challenge for working parents*. U.S. Census Bureau. <https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2024/01/rising-child-care-cost.html>



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Democratic Women's Caucus



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Norma J. Torres  
New Democrat Coalition  
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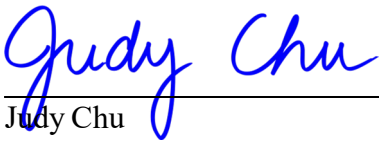
Lois Frankel  
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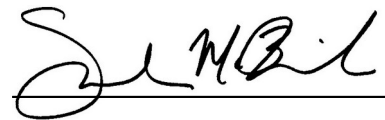
Emily Randall  
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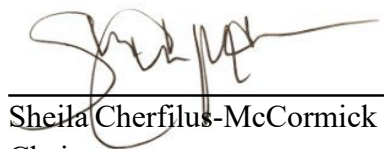
Melanie Stansbury  
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Judy Chu  
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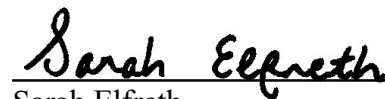
Sarah McBride  
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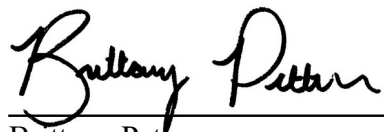
Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick  
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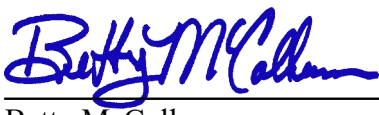
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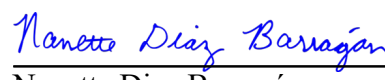
Sarah Elfreth  
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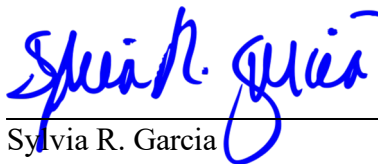
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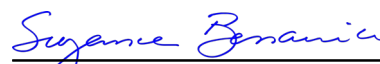
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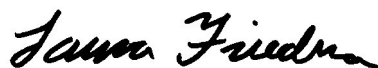
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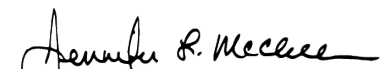
Bonnie Watson Coleman  
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Laura Friedman  
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Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
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Chellie Pingree  
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April McClain Delaney  
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Pramila Jayapal  
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